

Spurious drugs

†2657. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only in rare cases, persons involved in manufacture, sale and marketing of spurious drugs are punished/convicted;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government proposes to take to make the existing laws stringent so that the offenders are brought to book under the law for various offences and that they are convicted/punished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine and illegal activity. The State Governments are regularly unearthing such activities. The State Drugs Control Organizations who are entrusted with the task of regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring of their quality and also to check any possible movement of spurious, products, have been furnished with detailed guidelines to ensure effective monitoring over manufacture and sale of any spurious medicines. A bill has been placed in Parliament to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide stricter punishment to the offenders including maximum penalty of life imprisonment as well as stiff fines. The bill further provides to make such offences non-bailable and cognizable, constitute special courts for speedy trials of drugs related cases and also confer powers on police officers, not below the rank of Sup-inspector to institute prosecution in drug related cases.

Irregularities in health projects

2658. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the World Bank has conveyed to India its willingness to continue aid for three health projects totaling \$ 662 million, which were held up for more than a year due to irregularities found in its implementation;

(b) if so, by when these projects are likely to be implemented;

(c) whether USA has also decided to provide a total of \$ 30 million in 2006-07 to fight HIV/AIDS in various States, which are facing high-level infection; and

(d) if so, whether Government have prepared detailed programme of action plan in these States and amount allotted to each State thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India and the World Bank have recently signed the following 3 projects in the health sector:

- (i) The Reproductive and Child Health Project II (RCH-II) (US \$ 360 million),
- (ii) Second National Tuberculosis Control Project (TB-II) (US \$ 170 million), and
- (iii) Karnataka Health System Development and Reform Project (US \$ 141.83 million).

While the RCH-II Project is scheduled to close in the year 2010, the TB-II and Karnataka Health System Projects will close in 2011.

(c) and (d) Two Projects to fight HIV/AIDS are under implementation with the financial assistance from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the States of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Maharashtra. The allocations for the financial year 2006-07 are as under:—

- (i) AIDS Prevention and Control Project (APAC) in the State of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry—Rs. 14 crores.
- (ii) AVERT Project Maharashtra—Rs. 12 crores.

The action plan for these projects have been prepared by the Managing Committees of the APAC project and AVERT project.